

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Former Cadet Credits Civil Air Patrol Training with Naval Operations Appointment**

Since his high school graduation, Lieutenant Commander Christian Wunsch, former cadet of the 461<sup>st</sup> Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol (CAP), West Bend, Wis., went on to achieve his goal and is currently serving in the Navy as a Congressional Affairs Officer for Chief of Naval Operations.

After joining CAP in 1986, Wunsch became a search and rescue ground team member, rose to the rank of Cadet Major, earned the Amelia Earhart Award and was the cadet commander; all by the time he graduated from Kewaskum Community High School in 1991.

The former cadet, while attending a regional encampment in Colorado at the United States Air Force Academy, received an award for public speaking. He also taught the Grace Hopper Computer Users Course at the United States Air Force Academy. This summer course included both Air Force and CAP personnel.

Following graduation from high school, he enlisted in the Navy nuclear power program. After one year of training, he received a service appointment to the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md. Wunsch credits his experience and achievements with the Civil Air Patrol as being pivotal in the Navy's decision on his academy appointment.



Christian Wunsch

After graduating from the Naval Academy in 1996, he attended advanced nuclear power and submarine training classes. A year later, he was assigned to the USS BUFFALO, with his home port in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii as the chemistry and radiological controls division officer.

After two Western Pacific deployments, he was transferred to the Navy Submarine School in Groton, Conn. as an officer instructor in leadership and submarine tactics. Three years later he was assigned to the USS ALEXANDRIA, also in Groton, Conn. as a communications officer.

A year later Wunsch was assigned to the fast attack submarine USS SAN FRANCISCO in Guam. His next assignment was to Bangor, Wash. aboard the Ohio class ballistic missile submarine USS KENTUCKY (BLUE). Later he was assigned as the Operations and Navigation Officer for Submarine Development Squadron 5 in Bangor, Wash. In 2009, he was given his present assignment.

According to Wunsch, he credits the time spent in the Civil Air Patrol as “the stepping stone to everything that came afterwards” in his career. He specifically noted that the knowledge gained as well as the opportunity to be exposed to a wide range of activities, the leadership training and public speaking as key to establishing his career.

Wunsch is just one example of how the CAP cadet program builds strong citizens for the future by providing leadership training, technical education, scholarships and career education to young men and women ages 12 to 20. Cadets can grow to excel in their education and in their careers.